



Your Wedding

Couple's Names: Laura (nee McFaul) and Paul McLaughlin

Wedding Date: 04/06/21

Ceremony @ Cumber Upper Parish Church, Claudy

Reception @ The Everglades Hotel

Photography: Angel Photography NI

Videography: None

The Couple

How you met & when:

We met on Tinder (very modern – we talked on it for a long time before we met up) For our first date we met for a walk – Paul spent 90% of the time talking about sheep, Laura listened. I think even then we knew it was going to be something special.

The Proposal

We went on holiday to New Zealand and Paul was very keen to walk the Tongariro Alpine Pass – a 19.4 km hike. Do we hike at home? No. Did we survive? Barely. At the top of the hike there is a stop called the 'Emerald Lakes'. Paul took me over for a 'photo stop' Little did I know he was going to propose. Of course, I said yes. Our feet were a little lighter.



The Day

Venue:

The Everglades. We originally planned to have our wedding in Donegal but due to covid restrictions at the time we decided to move our reception venue in the hope that we would be allowed more guests at our wedding. We did this around January/February time and we were so glad we did. The staff at the Everglades were amazing – nothing was a trouble and I think they were nearly as excited as we were to have our big day and get weddings going again. Jason and Neil were great and we can't thank them enough for all their help and making our day so special.



Theme:

We didn't have a specific theme. We just wanted a nice relaxed day that we could enjoy with family and friends and in the end we were very lucky to have so many of our nearest and dearest there.

Wedding Dress:

I only went to 2 bridal shops in the end – I knew it was the one (plus I knew the more I seen the more confused I would get). I got my dress in Pippa Bridal in Coleraine and would so recommend this shop to anyone looking for their dress – Aimee was great at putting me at ease and helping me find the right dress for me.

The Bridesmaids:

We got the bridesmaid dresses in Dream Weddings in Coleraine. I honestly cannot recommend this shop and Sue enough. She was such an amazing help for this indecisive bride (how can there be so many bridesmaid dress colours?) and the bridesmaids looked great on the day.

Groomswear:

Paul got his suits from Mark2Menswear in Carndonagh, Donegal. Brian pulled out all the stops to make sure the grooms party looked very sharp on the day in timeless navy suits, and had extra sizes on hand for groomsmen who were travelling back from England and Scotland. Paul wanted to stand out from the crowd and go for a different suit jacket. I think you will agree he looked great.

**Decor****Wedding Flowers:**

Cathal's Flowers, Dungiven. Another true professional. I'll have to admit I left the main decision making of flowers to Cathal after telling him our colour scheme and I'm so glad I did. He made us the most beautiful bouquets and floral displays.

Room Decor & Table Plan:

The Everglades took care of the table and chair décor and provided a starlight backdrop behind the top table. Their room also has mood lighting, you can choose the colour of the light in the room to suit the meal and entertainment. For the table plan, we named the tables after places we have visited together, and Paul made table centres on a CNC machine to represent each place.

Stationary:

Perfect Day Print in Ballymena created our wedding stationary. They were great to work with – from the initial design to making adjustments they made it all so easy for us and I can't thank them enough for the gorgeous stationary we had in the end.

What food you choice & why:

Our courses including a chicken Caesar salad, cream of vegetable soup, choice of roast turkey and ham dinner or slow roasted beef, and choice of chocolate orange tart or pavlova. I have never heard so many compliments about food at a wedding – there are people even still talking about it!

Wedding Cake:

LimeTree Cakes Ahoghill. I absolutely loved our cake. The cake looked beautiful – Roz used flowers from our florist to tie everything in (she even went and picked the flowers up herself) and it tasted delicious – we had chocolate orange, salted caramel and lemon layers and every one tasted amazing. She also delivered our cake to the hotel so we had nothing to worry about.





Photos/videos

Why you chose your photographer:

We spent quite a long time choosing our photographer, especially as we decided we were not going to have a videographer. In the end we chose Angel Photography NI. We just loved the style of her photos and the way they told the story of the day. Andrea and Lorraine were great. From helping button up dresses, tie ties and floor dresses nothing was a bother. We felt at ease the whole day and it definitely shows in our photos. We cannot thank them enough for capturing the memories of our.





Finally

Any funny stories from the day?

We have a few stories from our day – from flat tyres, dropped microphones in the church, learning how to pour the perfect pint of Guinness, and competitive quizzers. It will be a day we will cherish forever.

Favourite Moment Groom:

Going to our second photo location of the day at the Grianan of Aileach in Donegal. We got to spend time away together and gave us a chance to really enjoy the moment and let it sink in.

Favourite Moment Bride:

It's hard to choose a favourite moment but I think for me it was getting to the front of the church, seeing my groom, and turning around to look at all of our guests. We hadn't seen so many of them in so long due to covid restrictions and it was just so special to see all our loved ones together again.

Your wedding day is your most important day and we want to make everything perfect. Our experienced Wedding Coordinators are among the best in Northern Ireland and are on hand to will help you to create an unforgettable and magical day which is truly a unique expression of you.

Please email conf@egh.hastingshotels.com or call to speak with our Wedding Coordinator on **028 7132 1066**

